

Attachment A – RCPP Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Initiative

Initiative Name and Acronym – RCPP Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Initiative

Initiative Description/Summary:

The goal of this project is to create and implement management strategies that provide for the adoption of scientifically proven and culturally acceptable pasture and grassland management practices that will maintain the tall grass prairie ecosystem, without the need for government regulation, and enroll high quality grasslands into conservation easements and contracts. Specifically the project will target at-risk species habitat on working pasture and agricultural lands, enhance water and soil quality, improve plant productivity limited by undesirable invasive species, and assist producers to avoid the need for natural resource regulatory requirements. The primary resource concern addressed through this project is Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife – Habitat degradation. Success will be gauged by acceptance and adoption of priority conservation practices, ongoing monitoring of greater prairie chicken lek survey routes and northern bobwhite quail surveys within the targeted regions.

Participating Counties See Attachment B Map:

Mills, Fremont, Montgomery, Page, Adams, Taylor, Union, Ringgold, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, Appanoose, Wapello, Davis, Jefferson, Van Buren, Henry, Lee, Des Moines. Priority focus for northern bobwhite priority areas are located within Fremont, Union, Ringgold, and Van Buren Counties.

Program Contact Information:

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Project Financial Assistance through EQIP:

- \$400,000

ProTracts Requirements:

1. Subaccount Guidance:

One subaccount is available in ProTracts to support this Initiative under RCPP EQIP 2014 titled “Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Lands Enhancement.”

Ranking Deadline for FY 15 of July 17, 2015, has been established.

2. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Choice Lists and Matrix Data:

- a. Approved Land Types – The following applicable land types are eligible for this initiative:

Crop
Farmstead
Forest
Other
Pasture

- b. RCPP Application Type - National

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c. Approved Natural Resource Concerns:

Fish and Wildlife Inadequate Habitat – Habitat Degradation
Inadequate Habitat - Food
Inadequate Habitat – Cover/Shelter
Inadequate Habitat - Water
Inadequate Habitat – Continuity (Space)

Degraded Plant Condition – Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill and Wind Erosion
Sheet and Rill Erosion
Wind Erosion
Soil Erosion – Concentrated Flow
Classic Gully Erosion

Note: No additional resource concerns may be added or used in ProTracts AERT to support this initiative.

d. For this initiative there will be High Priority practices that will be used at the Initiative and HU Initiative Rates (75% and 90% Payment Rate). Other practices for this initiative will be at the regular and regular HU rates (50% and 75% Payment rate):

High Priority Practices (Initiative Payment Rates)

Practice Name	Practice Code
Access Control	472
Brush Management	314
Conservation Cover	327
Early Successional Habitat Development	647
Forage and Biomass Planting	512
Forest Stand Improvement	666
Prescribed Burning	338
Prescribed Grazing (Deferment Options)	528
Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	643
Stream Crossing	578
Structures for Wildlife (Edgefeathering)	649
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	490
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645

Supporting Practices (Regular Payment Rates)

Practice Name	Practice Code
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Cover Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Fence	382
Field Border	386
Firebreak	394
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Hedgerow Planting	422
Herbaceous Weed Control	315
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Livestock Pipeline	516
Prescribed Grazing (all Payment Scenarios except for Deferment)	528
Pumping Plant	533
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390
Spring Development	574
Structures For Wildlife (all other Payment Scenarios except for Edgefeathering)	649
Underground Outlet	620
Water Well	642
Watering Facility	614

- e. A Cost List has been developed with these practices and appropriate rates and will be uploaded into ProTracts. This Cost List will be provided to the Field Office to be loaded into Toolkit.

3. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Ranking Criteria Questions:

Ranking will be uploaded into ProTracts.

4. Additional Initiative Guidance:

For Iowa, the Iowa DNR is the primary project partner. Private Lands Biologists will provide planning assistance for this project.